



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-06-91

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2005**

### **Natural Gas Rates To Change For Laclede Gas Company Customers**

JEFFERSON CITY—To primarily reflect estimated changes in the wholesale cost of natural gas for the upcoming winter heating season, Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) natural gas customers will experience an increase in natural gas rates under a filing which takes effect on November 14, 2005. This increase is interim subject to refund.

A residential customer paid approximately \$0.83 per therm (per 100 cubic feet of gas) during the winter of 2004-2005. Under this filing, the rate will increase to approximately \$1.13 per therm (per 100 cubic feet of gas), an increase of \$0.30 per therm. Last winter, a residential customer using 706 therms had a bill of \$751; if weather is normal this year and customers do not take measures to reduce their usage, that same customer would use approximately 782 therms for a bill of approximately \$1,095, before taxes. This represents an increase of approximately 46%. These numbers reflect more usage as well as a higher unit price of natural gas projected for this winter versus last winter.

Current natural gas market prices are at record levels for this time of the year based upon a number of factors including recent hurricanes, above average summer temperatures resulting in increased demand for natural gas-fired generators to serve air-conditioning load and high crude oil prices.

Approximately 65% to 80% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. **The wholesale cost of natural gas** (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) **is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.** The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply, demand and the weather. The Missouri Public Service Commission does conduct an annual regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Laclede Gas Company serves approximately 631,000 natural gas customers in the City of St. Louis as well as the Missouri counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Butler, Iron, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve.